(b) whether Government are aware that the said bridge has not yet been reconstructed and as a result the traffic has been completely disrupted causing untold difficulties to the public;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to restore the said bridge; and

(d) by when the restoration of the bridge would complete ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) One span of Manas bridge on N.H. 31 in Assam was damaged on 12-4-1990.

(b) and (c) A single lane Bailey bridge has been erected over the damaged span and traffic restored from 19-4-1990.

(d) Traffic which now passes over the undamaged spans and over the Bailey bridge would need to be diverted over an alternate temporary bridge. Steps for finalising such arrangements have been initiated. The restoration of the damaged span will be taken up after the traffic is diverted from the existing bridge. A meeting of the Assam Government representatives with the Government of India has been called for 24th May, 1990 to discuss the problems in New Delhi.

Demand for plebiscite in Kashmir

1582. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Indian citizens are raising the demand for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine whether the State should continue to remain a part of the Indian union or secede from it; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to curb the anti-national activities of such citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The consistent stand of the Govt. of India has been that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. Government are not aware of any demand for holding plebiscite in Kashmir being made outside the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) Government have taken stringent measures to curb secessionist and anti-national activities in Jammu and Kashmir and is keeping a close watch over the situation.

Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers' dismay over import of second hand printing machinery

1583. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers have expressed dismay over imports of second hand printing machinery;

(b) if so, what were their precise objections ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Newsprint quota to M/s Associated Journals Ltd.

1584. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Newsprint quota give to the M/s